St John the Baptist School

Prospectus

2018 - 2019
OUR MISSION ... is to be a Catholic school where every individual is highly valued and where care and concern for others is central to our work. All our students are expected to achieve their full potential and leave us ready to make a positive contribution to society. At SJB everything we do is guided by gospel values.

Welcome

Welcome to SJB. We hope you will find our prospectus gives you a feel for what life is like here in school. It also shows what we stand for at SJB. We are very proud of our students and all those who are part of our community.

Choosing the right secondary school for your child is a very important decision. You obviously want your child to be happy and successful, so you need to feel confident that SJB will provide an environment where this will be achieved.

Our aim is simple and straightforward, we want to be the best school in England. If you entrust your child to our care you will see that we work tirelessly to achieve this aim.

The best way to find out what SJB is like is to see us in action and you are very welcome to come and look round. Every day is open day, please make an appointment to come and see us at work.

We look forward to meeting you.

James Granville Hamshar
Headteacher
Our school is a Catholic comprehensive school based in Old Woking. We have 1303 students in school including 267 in the Sixth Form. We want our students to be happy and successful and we strive to ensure that every one of our students leaves us with:

- the best possible exam results
- the skills and knowledge to live and work in tomorrow’s global society
- the values and morals to live good Christian lives

We also want our students to have fun and to look back on their school days with pride and with fond memories.

We promote a positive culture where the emphasis is always on rewards rather than sanctions.

We place great value on our partnership with parents. We believe it is important to work together to ensure the children receive the best possible education and are prepared for their future lives. This is done in a positive, friendly atmosphere which is based on mutual respect. Parents are kept informed of their children’s education and progress through our parent portal and through parents’ evenings, information evenings etc. Parents are always welcome to come into school to discuss any concerns.

“All groups of students, no matter what their background or needs, make rapid progress in all years in a wide range of subjects.”

Ofsted
All students are expected to work hard and do their very best. This ensures they are active learners and makes being in lessons fun and rewarding. Progress is monitored frequently and parents are kept up to date with useful information which enables them to support their child’s learning.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 students study English, Mathematics, Science, RE, Geography, History, Computer Science, French, Spanish / Italian, DT, Art, Drama, Music, PSHE and Learn 2 Learn.

In Years 10 and 11 students study English, Mathematics, Science, RE, French / Spanish / Italian, PE and PSHE. Options for GCSE include Triple Science, a further Foreign Language, DT, Food Technology, Art, Drama, Business Studies, Music, PE, Media Studies, Textiles, Engineering and Health and Social Care.

There are cutting-edge ICT facilities with two specialist networked rooms, three Mac suites, a green screen and a wireless network. In addition to this, our Apple iPad Scheme ensures that every child has access to their own iPad so that they can share the benefits of elearning through the use of digital mobile devices at school and at home.

Technology is used to support learning and encourage independence, for example with help from the STARS we have developed our own Learning Tools app. The Hub provides a social learning space where students can work collaboratively or independently.

We are proud of our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment). It is part of SJB life here as it allows all students, parents and teachers to access a wealth of resources that support learning, facilitate communication and celebrate success – all you need is internet access.

Students are encouraged to be active and independent learners. Statistics show that homework (or independent learning) is a key part of success in examinations. It is compulsory for all students and the work set is appropriate and challenging. Students who have special educational needs are supported throughout the curriculum in a variety of ways.

“We students display mature and enthusiastic attitudes to their learning. They want to do well and are confident to ask for help and support when needed.”

Ofsted

Learning at SJB
In order to be successful at school children need to be happy. It is our belief that children thrive in a secure but challenging setting where they are treated with care and respect and where there are lots of opportunities for personal and spiritual development and for students to take responsibility.

Students are encouraged to take part in the clubs and activities which take place at lunch times and after school. There are a wide range of opportunities from football and climbing, to cookery, art, choir, orchestra and drama.

We also know that as children are growing up they sometimes need to be quiet and to stand apart from their very busy lives in school. We make sure that time and space for personal reflection are built into these important years.

There are dozens of visits and trips. There is something for everyone: Skiing, World Challenge, Ypres, Hampton Court, Iceland, Bletchley Park to name but a few!

Everyone is allocated to one of our four Houses: Romero, Kolbe, King and Bosco. There are numerous fiercely fought competitions in all subject areas to win House points.

The Student SJB 10 was created by the students and is made up of ten learning behaviours they felt were important to reward. Nominations recognise and praise our students’ effort and attitude to learning and star badges are given to the students (Years 7-11) to wear or they are given a stamp on their ‘Free Drink Card’ (Year 12-13).

“Good relationships between staff and students are a strong feature of the vast majority of lessons. Students thrive in an atmosphere of mutual respect... The behaviour of students is outstanding.”

Ofsted
At SJB we love the children. This is a place where every child is listened to, challenged and inspired. The spiritual life at SJB is guided by the Catholic ethos in that it is inclusive and child-centred. Spirituality happens every day at SJB through encouraging the children to treat others as they would want to be treated.

At SJB, every day begins with prayer; this takes place during form time and is an opportunity for the children to reflect upon the day ahead.

Every child attends RE lessons throughout their time at SJB where the RE staff seek to inspire faith and spirituality through being a witness to it themselves.

In the Sixth Form, the RE department facilitates spiritual development classes which centre on faith development and the challenges it poses in the outside world.

As a Catholic school collective worship is a very important part of the spiritual experience at SJB. The whole community comes together to worship at whole school Mass once a term and we also hold Masses for each Year group during the year. This provides the children with a real sense of community and belonging. The Chapel is always open for quiet thought and reflection.

Throughout the year the children are encouraged to be spiritually active. All the children get involved in providing hampers at Christmas and Lenten fundraising for different charities and on SJB Day to help with costs to support students volunteering on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The spiritual highlights at SJB are the Christmas and Easter Liturgies which are performed by the children, for the children and staff. Retreats and reflection days are enjoyed by all the Year groups.

“Students’ social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is outstanding. They have very high levels of respect for everyone within their community, resulting in exemplary attitudes and behaviour and in addition an immense pride in their school.”

Ofsted
Our new Sports Hall includes six badminton courts with cricket nets, a dance/gymnastics studio, a fitness suite and fitness testing area and four outside tennis courts. These fantastic facilities allow us to provide even more clubs and opportunities for our students to enjoy and excel in.

There is a full commitment to encouraging students to have a healthy lifestyle by undertaking sporting activities and eating a healthy and balanced diet. This approach is supported in PE, Food Technology, PSHE day activities and in the food served by the catering team in school.

Great fun, competitive, exciting, educational - PE is all of these and more at SJB. It is important and high profile. Every student has the opportunity to be part of a range of clubs and teams from rugby union and golf to netball and climbing. There is an active Inter-House sports competition which runs throughout the year and culminates in an energetic sports day!

Full use is made of expert coaching with professionals from rugby, netball, football and tennis clubs. They inspire our students and we enjoy sporting success at local and national levels with students representing England and Great Britain in athletics, basketball, rowing and weight-lifting.

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The Sixth Form is highly successful and all students who choose to be part of it are expected to have high standards in their attitude and work.

We offer a wide range of courses for full-time students aged 16+, including both academic and vocational qualifications, designed to cater for all abilities and career options. Most of our GCSE students stay on to continue their studies here and students from other schools also join us and become a valuable part of our community.

We ensure all the students are prepared well for university, further education and the world of work. They receive high quality teaching and their tutors give them academic guidance and pastoral support. They also have time allocated each week for key skills and spiritual guidance.

The Sixth Form is housed in specialist accommodation including teaching rooms, a fully networked learning resources centre, a quiet study room and a café where students can relax with friends. It has its own strong identity but the students also have a unique role as leaders within the school.

The students can be sure of receiving a fully rounded education which will prepare them for their future.

“The Sixth Form is outstanding and very well led. The large majority of students make excellent progress in their subjects and courses and move successfully onto higher education or training.”

Ofsted
Our school credo

You are very special

In all the world there is nobody like you. Since the beginning of time there has never been another person like you. Nobody has your smile, your eyes, your hands, your hair. Nobody owns your handwriting, your voice.

You’re special.

Nobody can paint your brushstrokes. Nobody has your taste for food, or music, or dance, or art. Nobody in the universe sees things as you do. In all time there has never been anyone who laughs in exactly your way and what makes you laugh, or cry, or think may have a totally different response in another.

So... You’re special!

You’re different from any other person who has ever lived in the history of the universe.

You are the only one in the whole creation who has your particular set of abilities. There is always someone who is better at one thing or another but nobody can match the symphonic sound when all are played together. Your symphony.

Through all eternity no one will ever walk, talk, think or do exactly like you.

You’re special.

You are rare and in all rarity there is enormous value and because of your great value the need for you to imitate anyone else is absolutely wrong. You are special and it is no accident you are. Please realise that God made you for a special purpose. He has a job for you to emulate anyone else is absolutely wrong.

You are special.
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Have faith... believe you can!